

## AMENDMENT

### In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method for using process exceptions to provide a notification for a distributed process, comprising:
  - identifying a process;
  - determining a location of a critical point in the process;
  - determining an information source at the critical point in the process;
  - monitoring stimulus from the information source;
  - processing said stimulus to detect at least one process exception;
  - communicating the process exception to a messaging controller over a communication mechanism;
  - processing the process exception at the messaging controller to determine a recipient to receive a notification and any associated contextual information;
  - communicating the notification and the associated contextual information to the recipient; and
  - if the communication of the process exception to the messaging controller is not acknowledged, communicating the process exception to the messaging controller over an alternative communication mechanism;
  - wherein monitoring stimulus from the information source and communicating the process exception are accomplished independent of local communication and information systems infrastructures.
2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously presented) The method for using process exceptions to provide a notification for a distributed process of claim 1, wherein identifying a process comprises identifying a supply chain process.
4. (Previously presented) The method for using process exceptions to provide a notification for a distributed process of claim 1, further comprising providing a local warning of the process exception at the location of the critical point in the process.
5. (Previously presented) The method for using process exceptions to provide a notification for a distributed process of claim 1, further comprising selecting the communication mechanism and alternate communication mechanism from the group consisting of a local area network, Internet, modem, mobile phone, satellite, and pager.
6. (Previously presented) The method for using process exceptions to provide a notification for a distributed process of claim 1, wherein communicating the notification and the associated contextual information to the recipient further comprises an escalation process if the notification is not acknowledged, wherein the escalation process is selected from the group of communicating the notification to the recipient over another communication means and communicating the notification to an alternate recipient.
7. (Currently amended) A system for using process exceptions to provide a notification for a distributed process, comprising:
  - means for monitoring stimulus from an information source at a critical point in a process;
  - means for processing said stimulus to detect at least one process exception;
  - a messaging controller;

means for communicating the process exception to the messaging controller over a communication mechanism;

means for processing the process exception at the messaging controller to determine a recipient to receive a notification and any associated contextual information; and

means for communicating the notification and the associated contextual information to the recipient;

wherein if the communication of the process exception to the messaging controller is not acknowledged, the means for communicating the process exception to the messaging controller ~~uses~~ comprises an alternative communication mechanism; and

wherein the means for monitoring stimulus from the information source, the communication mechanism, and the alternate communication mechanism are independent of local communication and information systems infrastructures.

8. (Previously presented) The system for using process exceptions to provide a notification for a distributed process of claim 7, wherein the process is a supply chain process.
9. (Previously presented) The system for using process exceptions to provide a notification for a distributed process of claim 7, further comprising means for providing a local warning of the process exception at the location of the critical point in the process.
10. (Previously presented) The system for using process exceptions to provide a notification for a distributed process of claim 7, wherein the communication mechanism and alternate communication mechanism are selected from the group consisting of a local area network, Internet, modem, mobile phone, satellite, and pager.

11. (Previously presented) The system for using process exceptions to provide a notification for a distributed process of claim 7, wherein the means for communicating the notification and the associated contextual information to the recipient further comprises a means for escalation if the notification is not acknowledged, wherein the means for escalation is selected from the group of means for communicating the notification to the recipient over another communication means and means for communicating the notification to an alternate recipient.
12. (New) The method for using process exceptions to provide a notification for a distributed process of claim 1, wherein the process is a supply chain process and the information source is selected from the group consisting of production equipment, environmental sensors, metrology equipment, quality equipment, applications, databases, and news feeds.
13. (New) The method for using process exceptions to provide a notification for a distributed process of claim 1, wherein the process is a supply chain process selected from the group consisting of a manufacturing process, a marketing process, an accounting process, a tax process, a personnel process, a design process, an engineering process, a regulatory process, a quality process, and an environmental variable that impacts quality of a process.
14. (New) The system for using process exceptions to provide a notification for a distributed process of claim 7, wherein the process is a supply chain process and the information source comprises a source selected from the group consisting of production equipment, environmental sensors, metrology equipment, quality equipment, applications, databases, and news feeds.
15. (New) The system for using process exceptions to provide a notification for a distributed process of claim 7, wherein the process is a supply chain process

selected from the group consisting of a manufacturing process, a marketing process, an accounting process, a tax process, a personnel process, a design process, an engineering process, a regulatory process, a quality process, and an environmental variable that impacts quality of a process.